

APRIL 2021 update for faculty & staff

Right, left to right: Taft College staff members Dru Bogdon, Chase Brown, Barbara Amerio, Amber Garcia, Morgan Sanchez, and Krystal Allikas are set to deliver food boxes curbside.

Below: Chase Brown places a food box in a student's car as Amber Garcia shares what is in the box.

Bottom: Taft College Financial Aid Director Barbara Amerio (center, in gray) leads staff and student workers in setting up this worthy event.



Taft College Financial Aid Sponsors Food Distribution Event for Students

On Thursday, March 25, from 9:00 a.m. to well past 3:00 p.m., Taft College Financial Aid hand delivered 188 food boxes to Taft College students who drove up and showed their IDs. 359 total individuals in student households were served. 16 remaining food boxes are scheduled to be picked up. Director Barbara Amerio shared, "Being able to assist so many students and their families with basic necessities was truly wonderful. It was absolutely a team effort and could not have happened without the support of the TC Family." Ms. Amerio personally thanked her staff members for their outstanding contributions. She wants to acknowledge all those who made this event so successful: Chase Brown, Amber Garcia, Krystal Allikas, Joanne Dumbrigue, Baghdad Alkorin, Morgan Sanchez, Lourdes Gonzales, Janis Mendenhall, Dru Bogden, Dr. Sharyn Eveland, Kevin Altenhofel, Myisha Cutrona, Geoff Dunham, Cindy Johns, Kathy Schock, Denise Gill, Kenny Schuyler, Francisco Uribe, Mary Perales, Richard Treece, and Richard's Maintenance and Operations staff members. Director Amerio anticipates that another food distribution event will take place in the beginning of June.

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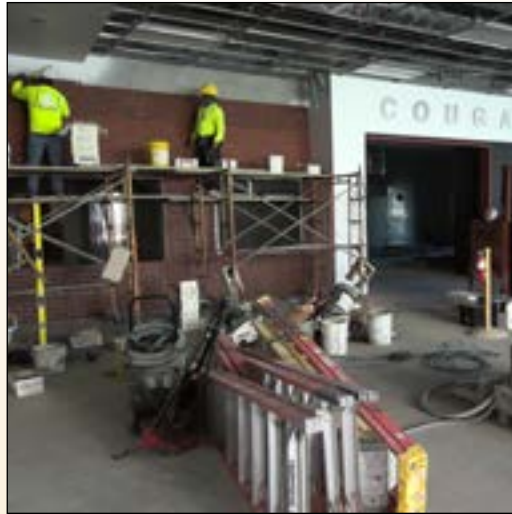
COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Now Greatly Expanded in Kern County

As of April 5, 2021, the COVID-19 vaccine is now available to anyone in Kern County who is at least 16 years of age. This is good news because Taft College students are now eligible to receive the vaccine. Taft College Superintendent/President Dr. Debra S. Daniels is passionate about getting Taft College faculty, staff, and students vaccinated as soon as possible, "Remember, the sooner we get a large number of people vaccinated, the sooner we can return to our lives. Please get vaccinated!" According to Kern County Public Health, they anticipate to receive more than 39,000 doses of vaccine beginning April 5. Approximately 46% of Kern's 65 and older population is now fully vaccinated. **People who are age 16 and older can schedule appointments now by visiting [MyTurn.ca.gov](https://www.myturn.ca.gov) or by calling the Public Health Call Center at (661) 321-3000.** Staff are ready to assist you to make vaccination appointments and answer any questions you may have.



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Top left:
Construction workers are finishing up laying thin brick on an interior wall just outside the new Cougar Café.



Top right:
Construction workers excavate curb and gutter before pouring sidewalk.



Bottom left:
Construction workers are busy completing site work on the south side of the new building.



Bottom right:
A construction worker cuts and lays thin brick on an exterior wall.



Taft College Student Center Nears Final Completion

The new Taft College Student Center is nearing ever closer to completion. Current construction activities are: 1) installation of interior thin brick is almost finished; 2) installation of exterior thin brick has begun on the east side; 3) quarry tile installation in the kitchen continues; 4) curb and gutter have been removed in preparation of pouring a new sidewalk along Wildcat way; and, 5) aluminum column and beam covers are being installed. Vinyl wall panels, porcelain wall panels, ceramic wall tiles casework (cabinets) and counter tops, and restroom counters and fixtures have also been installed. Above-grid ceiling electrical nears completion in the Bookstore. Ceiling tiles will be installed next week. Final leveling of the interior concrete floor has been done. Flooring materials arrive next week and additional concrete will be poured this week.

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Former Taft College Foundation President Bob Hampton Honored by Taft City Council

Beloved by many, Bob Hampton passed away on May 13, 2020 at the age of 82. A civic leader and local business owner, Bob served as the first President of the Taft College Foundation until his passing. The Taft City Council voted recently to rename East Cedar Street as Bob Hampton Road, honoring his legacy. On March 10, 2021, Taft College Trustee Dr. Kathy Orrin and Taft College Superintendent/President Dr. Debra S. Daniels spoke briefly at the unveiling of the new street signs.



2021 Spring Forward Activity Challenge Participants Receive Amazon Gift Cards

Superintendent/President Dr. Debra S. Daniels awarded each one of the 2021 Spring Forward Activity Challenge participants with an Amazon gift card valued at \$10! Celebrating everyone's progress, she stated, "You are all doing great! Some of you have had some ups and downs, but it is the fact that you are still sticking with it that is important!"